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ADMINISTRATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Organization of the Secretariat (A/2214, part I)

BUDGET ESTIMATES FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 1953

Section 10 (Department of Economic Affairs); section 11 (Department of Social Affairs)

Twenty-sixth report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions to the seventh session of the General Assembly

Introduction

1. At its 343rd meeting on 20 October 1952, the Fifth Committee decided to refer to the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, for consideration and report, part I - Organization of the Secretariat - of the explanatory memorandum by the Secretary-General on the administration of the United Nations (A/2214, paragraphs 1 - 37).
2. At the 354th meeting of the Fifth Committee on 4 November 1952 the Soviet Union Delegation submitted oral proposals (A/C.5/L.185) to the effect that (a) the Departments of Economic Affairs and Social Affairs should be merged, and (b) reductions of \$400,000 and \$700,000 should be made respectively in the estimates for section 10 and section 11 of the 1953 budget. It was decided to defer further consideration of the estimates for these two sections until the Advisory Committee had submitted its observations both on the Secretary-General's memorandum (A/2214) and on the Soviet Union proposals (A/C.5/L.185).
3. The question of a re-organization of the Secretariat was discussed at the sixth session of the General Assembly (1951) in the light of observations^{1/} of

^{1/} A/1533, paragraphs 116 - 120, Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixth Session, Supplement No. 7.

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the Advisory Committee which had specific reference to the organic structure of the Departments of Economic Affairs and Social Affairs and the Technical Assistance Administration.

4. On this basis, the Fifth Committee included in its report to the General Assembly on the 1952 budget estimates^{1/} a recommendation in which the Assembly, inter alia, requests the Secretary-General to review the whole structure and functions of the three Secretariat units concerned, as well as the system of co-ordination between them, within the context of a wider reorganization of the Secretariat.

5. There are therefore two distinct questions for consideration: the first concerns a general reorganization of the Secretariat as proposed by the Secretary-General; the second has to do with the question of a merger of the Departments of Economic Affairs and Social Affairs, with, as an alternative, the inclusion of TAA in the merger, which is involved in the above-mentioned 1951 recommendation of the Fifth Committee.

Organization of the Secretariat (A/2214, part I)

6. The full effect of administrative and structural changes under this head would accrue, and advantage be drawn, only on a long-term basis. As a corollary, recommendations on methods to give effect to such changes must be based on a detailed and exhaustive study of their implications. Such a study has not so far been made, and the Advisory Committee is therefore not in a position to judge of the degree of efficiency and economy likely to result from the outline proposals which the Secretary-General has submitted in his explanatory memorandum (A/2214, paragraphs 1-37).

7. It is the understanding of the Advisory Committee that the Secretary-General's proposals regarding the organization of the Secretariat are intended rather to elicit the views of Member States than to lay down a concrete pattern of reorganization. The Committee indeed fully appreciates the fact that in presenting his proposals, the Secretary-General expressly pointed out that he could not at the present stage develop them in greater detail. After the General Assembly has expressed its views on the general lines of the scheme now

1/ A/2222, Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixth Session, Annexes, Approved For Release 2000/08/04 : CIA-RDP83-00423R000500240004-6

5. ready by 8th Assembly

proposed by the Secretary-General, it is recommended that he should be requested to work out further details and to base the 1954 budget estimates accordingly.

Possible merger of the Departments of Economic Affairs and Social Affairs and the Technical Assistance Administration (A/2022, paragraph 15)

8. The Committee was informed that the Secretary-General does not feel justified at this stage in recommending a full merger of the Departments of Economic Affairs and Social Affairs without a further careful study, and that as regards a yet wider merger embracing TAA in addition to these two units, such a decision should not, in his opinion, be taken independently of the broader re-organization of the Secretariat.

9. While the Advisory Committee considers that the position taken by the Secretary-General does not fully accord with the Fifth Committee's recommendation of 1951 (A/2022, paragraph 15), it takes note of his assurance that more time is required for a fuller study of the measures already taken, as well as of his view that administrative and structural changes under this head can be planned to advantage only over a period of time. The Committee is therefore precluded from making recommendations at this stage. It remains nevertheless of the opinion that the relationships between the Departments of Economic Affairs and Social Affairs and TAA constitute a problem of major and of great importance, and that the treatment of this problem should not be deferred beyond the opening of the eightth session of the General Assembly, in the light of the necessity for the merger of the Departments of Economic Affairs and Social Affairs.

Present organization of the Departments of Economic Affairs and Social Affairs

10. The existing situation of the Departments of Economic Affairs and Social Affairs, in the opinion of the Advisory Committee, constitute a merger in the sense contemplated in the above-mentioned recommendations of the Fifth Committee. Although the two departments have been placed under a single head, no detailed proposals have been made regarding the extent to which this provisional arrangement will be accompanied by an effective consolidation of substantive functions.

11. The Secretary-General has, however, already adopted or planned the following administrative measures, as a result of which greater efficiency and economy are anticipated during 1953:

living together - money ceremony later

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- (i) The Economic and Social Council secretariat, previously a part of the Department of Economic Affairs, has been brought under the direct authority of the Assistant Secretary-General in charge of the Departments of Economic Affairs and Social Affairs;
 - (ii) The Specialized Agencies Section, at present under the direct authority of the Secretary-General, is to be transferred from his Executive Office to the Economic and Social Council secretariat, where it will come under the Assistant Secretary-General in charge of the Departments of Economic Affairs and Social Affairs;
 - (iii) The Director of Co-ordination for Specialized Agencies and Economic and Social Matters has been assigned, in addition to his functions in the Executive Office of the Secretary-General, the function of assisting the Assistant Secretary-General in charge of the Departments of Economic Affairs and Social Affairs in policy direction, internal co-ordination and supervision of the work of the Economic and Social Council secretariat.

Budgetary implications for 1953

12. For 1953, these and other related measures will, it is estimated, produce an immediate reduction of approximately \$93,000 under budget sections 10 and 11 - Economic Affairs and Social Affairs - and \$19,000 under section 6 - Executive Office of the Secretary-General. This reduction is submitted by the Secretary-General under the proposal submitted by the Delegation of the United Kingdom for a limitation of 1953 appropriations to \$48,700,000 gross. The extent of further, possible savings under sections 10 and 11 will depend upon the action to be taken during the coming months in respect of the Departments of Economic Affairs and Social Affairs and TAA; it cannot in any case be determined in the absence of concrete proposals by the Secretary-General. On that ground, the Advisory Committee is not able to make a recommendation as regards the reductions totalling \$700,000 proposed by the Soviet Union Delegation in sections 10 and 11 of the 1953 budget estimates (A/C.5/L.185). *ridiculous*

Kremlin has full control.

structural reorganization already done